(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has only 31,629 shuttleless looms which in only 1.62 per cent of the overall looms numbering 19.55 lakh and the Ministry has set a target of 90,000 shuttleless looms by 2010 to achieve the 90 billion meters target by 2010; and

(c) if so, what the Ministry is doing to modernize the powerloom sector without which in spite of having thousands of looms, we can not achieve the 2010 target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The powerloom sector contributes 62% of the total cloth production of the country.

(b) There are approximately 35,000 shuttleless looms installed in the country. This nurnber is 1.83 per cent of the total looms numbering 19.43 lakh. Government has not set any target for 90,000 shuttleless looms or production of 90 billion square meters of cloth by the year 2010.

(c) For modernisation of the powerloom sector, Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) under which 5% interest subsidy is proposed on loans. An additional option has been given to the decentralised powerloom sector to avail 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCS) under the scheme, in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement.

Presence of India on the Global Fashion Scenario

1016. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian textiles and apparel industry has good potential for growth in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the presence of India on the global fashion scenario especially to make India the fashion capital of the world; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to develop this sector in the Orissa State to improve the economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to Industry Vision (a Study by CRISIL in 2004, on behalf of Indian Cotton Mills Federation),

the Indian textiles and apparel industry has potential to double the country's share of the global textiles and clothing market, implying export earnings of US$ 40 billion by 2010 However, the National Textile Policy aims to reach textile exports to a level of US$ 50 billion US by 2010.

(c) India's fashion design industry is witnessing a rapid growth. The heightened awareness and interest in India has also opened up avenues for Indian fashion to be showcased in international ramps and stores abroad. It may also be mentioned that India has consolidated its position as one of the leading suppliers of textiles and apparel to the USA and European Union, which are regarded as the major fashion destinations of the world.

(d) The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to develop the textile industry of the country, including State of Orissa. Some of the important initiatives taken are given as under:-

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of ginning & pressing sector.

(v) To provide the industry with world class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, a new scheme namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks' has been launched by merging existing two schemes *i.e.* Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES). Government of India support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crores.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty to man-made filament yarns and man-

made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option of excise exemption.

(vii) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, *w.e.f.* 20.4.2005, a credit linked captial subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ix) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(x) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

Jobs potential in textile Sector

1017. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government sponsored study indicates that 12 million jobs which include 5 million direct employment and 7 million in the allied sectors, could be created in the Textile sector,

(b) whether the study has also sugested certain basis labour reforms such as increasing daily working hours from 8 to 12, hiking weekly working hours from 48 to 60, allowing women to work till 10.00 P.M. etc.;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider these suggestions; and

(d) by when a comprehensive labour policy on the issue is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above. (d) Since the matter needs forging a political consensus, no fixed time frame can be prescribed.